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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 220479 TOSEC 260095

41
ORIGIN SSO-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PMAYHEW:CHG
APPROVED BY P - MR HABIB
EA -AMB HUMMEL
S/S O:LRMACFARLANE
NEA/EGY - MR NEWBERRY
NEA:ARDAY
EA/K - MR HURWITZ
S - HDCOLLUMS
---------- 122827
P 042011Z SEP 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 220479 TOSEC 260095

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: KS, KN, PFOR

SUBJECT:ACTION MEMORANDUM: FAHMY'S EFFORTS TO MEDIATE
BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA (S/S NO.7618749)

TO THE SECRETARY FROM EA - AMB. HUMMEL THROUGH P - MR HABIB

1. THE PROBLEM:

KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAK HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR SNEIDER
THAT THE ROKG IS NOT INTERESTED IN HAVING EGYPTIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER FAHMY ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH
KOREA TO GET DIRECT TALKS GOING. WE BELIEVE THIS IS TOO
NEGATIVE A POSTURE AND THAT THE ROKG SHOULD NOT PUT IT-
SELF IN POSITION OF REFUSING AN OFFER TO ASSIST RESUMPTION
OF MEANINGFUL SOUTH-NORTH DIRECT CONTACTS. FAHMY ALSO
CONTINUES TO EXPRESS CONCERN THAT WE WILL TRY TO DISRUPT
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HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS.

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2. BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

WHILE FAHMY'S EFFORTS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL, WE WOULD WANT THE ONUS OF THEIR FAILURE TO BE ON THE NORTH KOREANS RATHER THAN ON THE ROKG. THE ROKG'S

NEGATIVE REACTION TO FAHMY'S EFFORTS ALSO RUNS COUNTER TO OUR ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE RESUMPTION OF DIRECT SOUTH-NORTH TALKS AND TO THE ROKG'S OWN POSITION ON DIRECT TALKS WITH THE NORTH KOREANS. FINALLY, IF ROKG THROWS COLD WATER ON FAHMY'S OFFER, HE MAY BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO ANY NORTH KOREAN SUGGESTIONS THAT HE URGE DIRECT US-NORTH KOREAN TALKS.

(YOU HAVE WITH YOU, FOR YOUR APPROVAL, A REPLY TO FAHMY'S QUERY TO HERMANN ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS MEDIATION EFFORT - SS NO. 7618294.)

3. RECOMMEND YOU AUTHORIZE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM TO SEOUL AND CAIRO, INFO USUN NEW YORK:

QUOTE
SECRET/EXDIS
ACTION: SEOUL, CAIRO
INFO: USUN NEW YORK
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN
SUBJECT: EGYPT AND KOREA ISSUE
REF: SEOUL 6911, CAIRO 11838

1. FONMIN'S RESERVATIONS ON FAHMY'S EFFORTS TO ASSUME ROLE OF "MEDIATOR" BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH ARE UNDERSTAND-ABLE. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE ROKG SHOULD NOT BE WHOLLY NEGATIVE ON FAHMY'S EFFORTS. WHILE WE BELIEVE IT DOUBT-FUL NORTH KOREA WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO ANY THIRD PARTY INITIATIVE ON SOUTH-NORTH TALKS, FAHMY MIGHT PLAY USEFUL ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY IN UNLIKELY EVENT NORTH WERE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE DISCUSSIONS WITH ROKG. MORE IMPORTANTLY, WE BELIEVE ROKG SHOULD NOT PUT ITSELF IN POSITION OF REFUSING AN OFFER TO ASSIST IN RESUMPTION DIRECT SOUTH-
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NORTH CONTACTS. THIS COUNTER TO USG POSITION ON ENCOURAGE-MENT OF TALKS AS WELL AS PUBLIC POSITION OF ROKG. IF FAHMY'S EFFORTS FAIL, ONUS SHOULD BE ON NORTH KOREANS, NOT ROKG.

2. IN VIEW REFTEL B YOU SHOULD CLARIFY WITH FONMIN EXACTLY WHAT ROKG POSITION ON FAHMY'S EFFORTS IS. OBVIOUSLY WE BELIEVE ROK CONGEN'S REPORTED RESPONSE IS

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MOST BENEFICIAL FROM ROKG POINT OF VIEW AND PUTS ISSUE
UP TO NORTH KOREANS.

3. FOR CAIRO: WE REMAIN PUZZLED BY FAHMY'S CONTINUED
INSISTENCE THAT WE ARE SOMEHOW BLOCKING HIS MEDIATION
EFFORTS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW HIS OWN DESCRIPTION ROK
CONGEN'S FORTHCOMING RESPONSE. NORTH KOREANS NOT LIKELY
TO BE INTERESTED IN FAHMY'S PLAN AND WE SUSPECT THAT AT
SOME POINT THEY MAY TRY RESURRECT THROUGH FAHMY THEIR

PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT U.S. CONTACTS IN EFFORT TO FEND
OFF HIS MEDIATION EFFORTS.

UNQUOTE
APPROVE . . . . . DISAPPROVE . . . . .
4. DRAFTED: EA/K:PMAYHEW:CHG:9/3/76

CLEARED BY NEA - MR DAY; P - MR HABIB; S-HCOLLUMS

REFERENCES WILL FOLLOW IN TOSEC SERIES.

ROBINSON

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NNN

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04 MAY 2006

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